



Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

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Ernie Fletcher
Governor

Thomas D. Layzell
President

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The Council on Postsecondary Education is directed by statute to provide the Governor and the members of the General Assembly an annual accountability report on Kentucky's postsecondary education system. The report documents systemwide and institutional progress in advancing the Public Agenda and the mandates of the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (House Bill 1) and reviews initiatives to be undertaken during the next year.

The structure of the 2004-05 accountability report was altered to mirror the revised postsecondary Public Agenda approved by the Council late in 2005. The new structure is more focused and provides year-to-year, comparative, and historical progress on key indicators of reform that reflect state needs, as defined by the five questions of the Public Agenda and HB 1. The report includes an executive summary of key indicators organized by the five questions, detailed data and analyses on state and institution key indicators, brief descriptions of state and institution initiatives to be implemented in the coming year, and a section linking progress made on the five questions of the Public Agenda to the six goals of HB 1.

During 2004-05, Kentucky's postsecondary education system continued to move forward. Incoming students and adults are better prepared for postsecondary work than they were a year ago. Despite tuition increases, access to postsecondary education continues to be affordable for the majority of Kentuckians, with the exception of part-time, independent students. Undergraduate and graduate enrollment, degree and credential production, transfers between KCTCS and four-year institutions, minority student access and achievement, and graduation and persistence rates all show signs of improvement. Kentucky continues to be at the forefront in implementing statewide assessments and innovative improvements in teaching and learning. Furthermore, as evidenced by new performance indicators, the institutions have strengthened their commitment to being good stewards of place by playing an active role in community and economic development.

However, it is also evident that Kentucky will need to do more in order to achieve the goals of HB 1 by 2020. The economic windfall that would result from significantly boosting Kentucky's educational attainment would be unprecedented - an estimated \$5 billion more in cumulative tax revenues and \$71 billion in cumulative personal income by 2020. However, to get to the national average in terms of working adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, we must double the numbers—from 400,000 degree holders in 2000 to approximately 790,000 degree holders by 2020. Achievement of this goal will require unprecedented levels of performance and productivity throughout the educational system. It also will require adequate and sustained levels of resources.

The statute is clear, and we will continue to push the system forward and answer the questions outlined in the Public Agenda. We look forward to working with you as we develop and refine the Public Agenda and long-term funding model to achieve our mission of better lives for Kentucky's people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Layzell", written in a cursive style.

Thomas D. Layzell